

WHEAT HARVEST, 1931-32.

On the 2nd July last the Government Statist issued a Bulletin estimating the area sown to wheat this Season to be 4,300,000 acres - 207,213 or 5% less than last Season. Since then through the agency of Police Officers in the various Districts, returns of the final sowings have been obtained. The result is that the early estimate has been decreased by 52,000 acres making the total 4,248,000, the total decrease on the previous season being 259,000 acres or 6%.

Reports indicate that there are fairly large areas of self-sown crops and that large areas have been sown without fertilisers. Distributed in Divisions, the total areas (with the estimated grain area in parentheses) are as follows: Central 700,000 (570,000); Lower North 926,000 (840,000); Upper North 413,000 (395,000); South Eastern 57,000 (55,000); Western 1,140,000 (1,100,000); Murray Mallee 1,012,000 (940,000); State 4,248,000 (3,900,000).

The rainfall throughout the whole season has been bountiful and general. The Statist has made a special estimate of the average fall over the Agricultural Areas only, and in comparison with the average of 25 years, this year's rainfall from April to August is 23% better than the average, the total for 1931 being 10.84 inches - 25 years average - 8.80 inches. September month has opened with a very fine rainfall.

The prospects at this date are certainly very bright for a very heavy yield in every Division of the State and probably the grand total from the Western Division will be a very good second to the top Division of the State - the Lower North.

Many persons are now recalling the record crop of 1916 - 45,745,064 bushels, average 16.46 bushels per acre and hope for a repetition ^{of the average}. This is possible, of course, but not probable. The rainfall of 1916 (April-August) was greater in each Division than the estimated rainfall for this year, and the ratio of area sown in each division to the State total varies so considerably that if the current crop was estimated on the divisional average of 1916, the State average would be 1 bushel less viz:- ~~16.46~~ - 15.51 ^{not 16.46}. The average yield for the last 10 years has been 10 bushels, the last four seasons being low. The prospects at this date are certainly much higher than this average and on the facts to date a 14 bushel average might be hoped for, conditions continuing normally favorable. From a probable grain area of 3,900,000 acres, this would return 54,600,000 bushels.

VI. WOODS... 428) lbs. of greeny wool was obtained from the... and... stripped.

VII. STOCKS OF WOOL... 4/9/31. 1931 by... GOVERNMENT STATIST & CO.

To Minister
Press
& Statist